



REMARKS

Claims 1, 4–7, and 9–14 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 7, 10, and 12 are amended, and claims 2, 3, 8, and 15–20 are canceled. Support for the amendments may be found, for example, in the original claims, specification, and drawings. No new matter is added.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representative by Examiner Vo in the October 25 personal interview. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

In view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

I. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C §102 Over Kobayashi

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2, 4–7, 9–12, 15, 16, 18, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,390,611 to Kobayashi et al. ("Kobayashi"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Although Applicants do not necessarily agree with the rejection, claims 1 and 7 are amended to incorporate the subject matter of non-rejected claims 3 and 8, respectively. Claims 4–6 and 9–12 variously depend from claims 1 and 7. Claims 2, 15, 16, and 18 are canceled. Accordingly, the rejection is overcome.

II. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C §102 Over Ikkatai

The Office Action rejects claims 1–20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,022,102 to Ikkatai et al. ("Ikkatai"). Claims 15–20 are canceled, rendering their rejection moot. As to the remaining claims, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

A. Independent Claim 1

It is well settled that a claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference.

See MPEP §2131.

Claim 1 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 3. Applicants respectfully submit that the Office Action was in error for rejecting claim 3 over Ikkatai. The Office Action asserts that Ikkatai depicts in Figures 2A and 2B a venting port 17a and a fluid inlet port 17b located in a sidewall of reservoir 1. However, claim 1, the base claim, requires that "the open end of the venting port and the open end of the fluid inlet port being located at substantially a same level, in a gravitational direction." Ikkatai fails to disclose such a feature in combination with the venting port and the fluid inlet port being located in a side wall of the fluid reservoir. Thus, Ikkatai does not anticipate canceled claim 3 and does not anticipate claim 1, as amended.

Ikkatai does not anticipate claim 1. Claims 2 and 3 are canceled. Claims 4–6 variously depend from claim 1 and, thus, also are not anticipated by Ikkatai. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

B. Independent Claim 7

Claim 7 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 8. Applicants respectfully submit that the Office Action was in error for rejecting claim 8 over Ikkatai. The Office Action asserts that Ikkatai depicts in Figures 2A and 2B a venting port 17a and a fluid inlet port 17b located in a sidewall of reservoir 1. However, claim 7, the base claim, requires that the "the open end of the fluid inlet port being located at a higher level, in a gravitational direction, than the open end of the venting port." Ikkatai fails to disclose such a feature in combination with the venting port and the fluid inlet port being located in a side wall of the fluid reservoir. Instead, Ikkatai depicts the fluid inlet port 17b at a lower level, in a

gravitational direction, than the open end of the venting port 17a. Thus, Ikkatai does not anticipate canceled claim 8 and does not anticipate claim 7, as amended.

Ikkatai does not anticipate claim 7. Claim 8 is canceled. Claims 9–14 variously depend from claim 7 and, thus, also are not anticipated by Ikkatai. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 4–7, and 9–14 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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